

BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended June 30, 2008

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Birch Rural Fire Department
Barry County, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of BIRCH Rural Fire Department as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008, which collectively comprise the fire department's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of BIRCH Rural Fire Department's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of BIRCH Rural Fire Department as of June 30, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management discussion and analysis and required supplementary information listed in the table of contents are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquires of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise BIRCH Rural Fire Department's basic financial statements. The accompanying additional supplementary information listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of BIRCH Rural Fire Department. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Hastings, Michigan
October 28, 2008

Walker, Fluke & Sheldon, PLC

BIRCH Rural Fire Department Management Discussion and Analysis

As the Fire Department Board of BIRCH Rural Fire Department, we offer readers of the Fire Department's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of BIRCH Rural Fire Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. The analysis focuses on significant financial position, budget changes and variances from the budget, and specific issues related to funds and the economic factors affecting the Fire Department. We encourage readers to consider this information in conjunction with the letter or transmittal, which begins on page 1, and the financial statements, which begin on page 5.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of BIRCH Rural Fire Department exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$451,809 (net assets) compared to \$471,521 last year. Of this amount, \$180,644 (unrestricted net assets) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The government's total net assets decreased by \$19,712 compared to a decrease of \$27,911 last year.
- The government's fund balance increased by \$3,191 compared to an increase of \$1,905 last year.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Fire Department's governmental funds reported an ending fund balance of \$180,644 compared to ending fund balance of \$177,453 last year.

The basic financial statements include information that presents two different views of the Fire Department:

- The first column of the financial statements includes information on the Fire Department's General Fund under the modified accrual method. These Fund Financial Statements focus on current financial resources and provide a more detailed view about the accountability of the Fire Department's sources and uses of funds.
- The adjustment column of the financial statements represents adjustments necessary to convert the fund financial statements to the government-wide financial statements under the full accrual method.
- The government wide financial statement columns provide both long-term and short-term information about the Fire Department's overall financial status. The statement of net assets and the statement of activities provide information about the activities of the Fire Department as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Fire Department's finances. These statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

The financial statements can be found on pages 5-6 of this report.

Notes to the financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 7-11 of this report.

Other information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information. The Fire Department adopts an annual budget for its general fund. Within the required supplementary information, a budget comparison statement has been provided for these funds to demonstrate compliance with the budget.

Required supplementary information can be found on page 12 of this report.

Additional Supplementary information is presented immediately following the required supplementary information on pages 13-15.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of BIRCH Rural Fire Department, assets exceeded liabilities by \$451,809 at the close of the most recent fiscal year compared to \$471,521 last year.

By far the most significant portion of the Fire Department's net assets (60.02 percent) reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, equipment and furniture and fixtures) (\$271,165). The Fire Department uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. An additional portion of the Fire Department's net assets (39.98 percent) reflects unrestricted net assets (\$180,644), which may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. The Fire Department does not have any restricted net assets.

BIRCH Rural Fire Department's Condensed Financial Data

	Governmental Activities 06/30/2008	Governmental Activities 06/30/2007
Current and Other Assets	\$ 184,000	\$ 177,453
Capital Assets	271,165	294,068
Total Assets	<u>455,165</u>	<u>471,521</u>
Liabilities	<u>3,356</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Assets:		
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of related debt	271,165	294,068
Restricted	-	-
Unrestricted	180,644	177,453
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 451,809</u>	<u>\$ 471,521</u>
Revenues		
Contributions from Local Units	\$ 437,675	\$ 359,111
Interest and Rentals	9,282	8,503
Other Revenue	2,000	-
Total Revenues	<u>448,957</u>	<u>367,614</u>
Expenses-Public Safety	<u>468,669</u>	<u>395,525</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ (19,712)</u>	<u>\$ (27,911)</u>

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Fire Department is able to report positive balances in all three categories of net assets.

Governmental activities. Governmental activities decreased the Fire Department's net assets by \$19,712 mainly due to an increase in contract services due to a study for a projected fire barn and depreciation expenditures. Both revenue and expenses are up due to BIRCH assuming a greater share of the Hastings Fire Department budget. This is based on an agreement between BIRCH and the Hastings Fire Department which reflects the increased usage of fire service by the BIRCH townships. Contributing townships were charged increased fees to cover the increased expenses.

Financial Analysis of the Fire Department's Funds

As noted earlier, the Fire Department used fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental funds. The focus of the Fire Department's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Fire Department's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a Fire Department's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the Fire Department's governmental fund reported an ending fund balance of \$180,644, an increase of \$3,191 in comparison with the prior year. Last year, the Fire Department's governmental fund ending fund balance was \$177,453, which was an increase of \$1,905 from the prior year.

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the Fire Department. At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved fund balance of the general fund and the total fund balance was \$180,644. Unreserved fund balance represents 40.52% of the total general fund expenditures. In the prior year, the unreserved fund balance was \$177,453, which represented 48.52% of the total general fund expenditures.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The original budget was amended during the current fiscal year due to an agreement between BIRCH and the Hastings Fire Department which increased the BIRCH share of the Hastings Fire Department budget. The new agreement accounted for the fact that BIRCH townships were using an increased percentage of the fire services.

Revenues and expenditures exceeded budgetary estimates for the current year increasing fund balance.

Capital Assets

The Fire Department's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of June 30, 2008, amounts to \$271,165 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes: land, buildings, improvements, equipment and furniture and fixtures.

During the current fiscal year, Birch Rural Fire Department purchased a power unit for its extrication equipment. This was the only capital asset purchased in the current fiscal year. Details of the Fire Department's capital assets are continued in the notes to financial statements on page 10.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

BIRCH Rural Fire Department believes revenues will remain fairly constant. The majority of the Fire Department's revenue comes from Baltimore, Irving, Rutland, Carlton and Hastings Township's. Expected decreases in 2008-2009 state shared revenues may have an indirect effect on BIRCH Rural Fire Department. If Townships receive less state shared revenue, they will have less to spend and may spend less on fire protection. Some Townships depend on a fire millage for fire protection and if a fire millage does not pass, revenues could go down. BIRCH Rural Fire Department feels expenses will be up slightly during the next year due to inflation and increases in fuel costs. The Board approved and began a study, with the City of Hastings, on possible ways to build a new fire department. On April 23, 2007 the board approved a new assessment formula based on taxable value, and average runs over a five-year period. This new formula has created increased expenses for fire protection. Due to increased costs, BIRCH has charged the five townships more for the increased fees.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of BIRCH Rural Fire Department's finances for all those with an interest in the Fire Department's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Jim Brown at 855 River Road, Hastings, MI 49058. (269) 948-9690

**BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET -
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
June 30, 2008**

	General Fund Modified Accrual Basis	Adjustments (See Notes)	Statement of Net Assets
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 19,056	\$ -	\$ 19,056
Investments	164,944	-	164,944
Capital Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	-	271,165	271,165
Total Assets	\$ 184,000	\$ 271,165	455,165
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,356	\$ -	3,356
Total Liabilities	3,356	-	3,356
FUND BALANCE / NET ASSETS			
Fund Balances			
Unreserved-Undesignated	180,644	(180,644)	-
Reserved	-	-	-
Total Fund Balance	180,644	(180,644)	-
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 184,000		
Net Assets			
Invested in Capital Assets-Net of Related Debt		271,165	271,165
Restricted		-	-
Unrestricted		180,644	180,644
Total Net Assets		\$ 451,809	\$ 451,809

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL REVENUE, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended June 30, 2008

	General Fund Modified Accrual Basis	Adjustments (See Notes)	Statement of Net Assets
Revenue			
Contributions from Local Units	\$ 437,675	\$ -	\$ 437,675
Interest and Rentals	9,282	-	9,282
Other Revenue	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Revenue	<u>448,957</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>448,957</u>
Expenditures			
Current:			
Public Safety:			
Professional Services	1,970	-	1,970
Operating Costs-City of Hastings	436,002	-	436,002
Capital Outlay	7,794	(7,794)	-
Depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>30,697</u>	<u>30,697</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>445,766</u>	<u>22,903</u>	<u>468,669</u>
Excess of Revenue Over (Under)			
Expenditures / Change in Net Assets	3,191	(22,903)	(19,712)
Fund Balance/Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>177,453</u>	<u>294,068</u>	<u>471,521</u>
Fund Balance/Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$ 180,644</u>	<u>\$ 271,165</u>	<u>\$ 451,809</u>

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

**BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the BIRCH Rural Fire Department conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governmental units. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used by the BIRCH Rural Fire Department:

REPORTING ENTITY

BIRCH Rural Fire Department was organized in 1979 by the Townships of Baltimore, Carlton, Hastings, Irving and Rutland to provide fire protection to the residents and property owners. BIRCH Rural Fire Department serves 100% of Baltimore, Hastings and Rutland Townships, approximately 56% of Carlton Township and 25% of Irving Township. BIRCH Rural Fire Department receives its revenues from dues based on the average percents of taxable values of property and the number of fire runs located in the Townships. BIRCH Rural Fire Department has entered into an agreement with the City of Hastings whereby the City houses and operates the BIRCH equipment. For this BIRCH Rural Fire Department agrees to pay the City of Hastings a percentage of the operating expenditures of the City Fire Department.

MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Fire Department's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the Fire Department as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Fire Department's major funds).

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The statement of net assets includes and recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The Fire Department's net assets are reported in three parts: invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted net assets; and unrestricted net assets.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses have a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Revenues are primarily derived from charges for services and interest and rentals to provide for the administration and operation of: (1) general BIRCH Rural Fire Department governmental departments, boards and commissions; and (2) fire protection.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized as soon as it is both measurable and available. Revenue is considered to be available if it is collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Fire Department considers revenues to be available if they are collected with 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, expenditures relating to compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due.

The Fire Department reports the following major governmental funds:

- The General Fund is the Fire Department's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the Fire Department.

**BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS OR EQUITY

Bank Deposits - Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with a maturity of three months or less when acquired.

Capital Assets - Capital assets are defined by the Fire Department as assets with an initial cost of \$500 or more. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Donated assets are reported at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Land Improvements	20 years
Buildings	40 years
Furniture	10 years
Heavy Equipment	20 years
Fire Equipment	7 years
Other Equipment	7 years
Data Processing Equipment	5 years

Fund Equity - In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change. Birch does not have any designations of fund balance.

STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Budgetary Information - Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for all governmental funds. This basis is consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Annual appropriated budgets are adopted for all required governmental fund types. The Fire Department Boards prepares the annual budgets prior to June 30. Budgets for the general fund are adopted at the line item level and reported in the budgetary comparison schedule at this level.

ENCUMBRANCE ACCOUNTING

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditures of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by BIRCH Rural Fire Department.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER APPROPRIATIONS IN BUDGETARY FUNDS

P.A. 621 of 1978, section 18(1), as amended, provides that a local unit shall not incur expenditures in excess of the amount appropriated. The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, which is the same basis as the financial statements.

During the year ended June 30, 2008, the Fire Department incurred expenditures in certain budgetary funds, which were in excess of the amounts appropriated, as follows:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>
General			
Public Safety:			
Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 7,794	\$ 7,794

DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Michigan Compiled Laws Section 129.91, authorizes the Fire Department to deposit and invest in the accounts of Federally insured banks, credit unions and savings and loan associations; bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or Federal agency obligation repurchase agreements; bankers' acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rated by two standard rating agencies within the two highest classifications, which mature not more than 270 days after the date of purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivision which are rated investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. Financial institutions eligible for deposit of public funds must maintain an office in Michigan.

The Fire Department has designated one bank and one savings bank for the deposit of BIRCH Rural Fire Department funds.

The Fire Department's deposits and investments are in accordance with statutory authority.

At year-end, the Fire Department's deposits and investments were reported in the basic financial statements in the following categories:

	<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>TOTAL PRIMARY GOVERNMENT</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 19,056	\$ 19,056
Investments	164,944	164,944
Restricted Assets	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 184,000</u>	<u>\$ 184,000</u>

**BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

The breakdown between deposits and investments is:

	<u>TOTAL PRIMARY GOVERNMENT</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents (Checking and Savings Accounts, Certificates of Deposit)	\$ 184,000
Investment in Securities (Mutual Funds and Similar Vehicles)	-
Petty Cash and Cash on Hand	-
Total	<u>\$ 184,000</u>

Custodial credit risk is the risk that the Fire Department will not be able to recover its deposits in the event of financial institution failure. The Fire Department's deposits are exposed to the custodial credit risk if they are not covered by federal depository insurance and are uncollateralized. At June 30, 2008, the Fire Department has deposits with a carrying amount of \$184,000 and a bank balance of \$184,000. Of the bank balance, \$146,578 is covered by federal depository insurance and \$37,422 is uninsured and \$0 is collateralized. The Fire Department evaluates each financial institution with which it deposits funds and assesses the level of risk of each institution; only those institutions with an acceptable estimated risk level are used as depositories.

CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the current year was as follows:

	<u>BALANCE 06/30/2007</u>	<u>ADDITIONS</u>	<u>RETIRE- MENTS</u>	<u>BALANCE 06/30/2008</u>
Capital Assets Being Depreciated				
Equipment	\$ 673,072	\$ 7,794	\$ -	\$ 680,866
Subtotal	673,072	7,794	-	680,866
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>379,004</u>	<u>30,697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>409,701</u>
Capital Assets-Net of Depreciation	<u>\$ 294,068</u>	<u>\$ (22,903)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 271,165</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to programs as follows:

Governmental Activities:

Public Safety	<u>\$ 30,697</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 30,697</u>

**BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

COMMITMENTS

In the year ended June 30, 1999, Birch Rural Fire Department entered into an agreement with the Hastings Fire Department to provide \$100,000 for the purchase of a highboy. Birch will pay Hastings Fire Department at the rate of \$10,000 per year, for ten years. As of June 30, 2008, Birch Fire Department has paid \$90,000, leaving \$10,000 in future payments to make. These payments are included in the Operating Costs amount in the Statement of Governmental Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Statement of Activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fire Department is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors and omissions. The Fire Department's insurance for general liability, excess liability, auto liability, trunk-line liability, errors and omissions, and physical damage (equipment, buildings and contents) is provided by the City of Hastings through an insurance company. Settled claims have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three years.

RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Total fund balance and the net change in fund balance of the Fire Department's governmental fund differs from net assets and changes in net assets of the governmental activities reported in the statement of net assets and statement of activities. This difference primarily results from the long-term focus of the statement of net assets and statement of activities versus the current financial resources focus of the governmental fund balance sheet and statement of revenue, expenditures, and change in fund balance.

The following is a reconciliation of fund balance to net assets:

Total Fund Balance - Modified Accrual Basis	\$ 180,644
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Amounts reported in the statement of net assets are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources
and therefore are not reported in the funds

Governmental capital assets	\$ 680,866	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>409,701</u>	<u>271,165</u>

Net Assets of General Fund - Full Accrual Basis	<u>\$ 451,809</u>
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The following is a reconciliation of the net change in fund balance to the net change in net assets:

Net Change in Fund Balances - Modified Accrual Basis	\$ 3,191
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Amounts reported in the statement of net activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the
Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is depreciated over their
estimated useful lives

Expenditures for capital assets	\$ 7,794	
Less: Current year depreciation	<u>(30,697)</u>	<u>(22,903)</u>

Change in Net Assets of General Fund - Full Accrual Basis	<u>\$ (19,712)</u>
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**BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND
For The Year Ended June 30, 2008**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Amended Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Amended Budget</u>
Revenue				
Contributions from Local Units	\$ 359,111	\$ 437,678	\$ 437,675	\$ (3)
Interest and Rentals	8,000	8,000	9,282	1,282
Other Revenue	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Revenue	<u>367,111</u>	<u>445,678</u>	<u>448,957</u>	<u>3,279</u>
Expenditures				
Current:				
Public Safety:				
Professional Services	2,000	2,000	1,970	30
Operating Costs-City of Hastings	356,223	442,353	436,002	6,351
Capital Outlay	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,794</u>	<u>(7,794)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>358,223</u>	<u>444,353</u>	<u>445,766</u>	<u>(1,413)</u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	8,888	1,325	3,191	1,866
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	<u>177,453</u>	<u>177,453</u>	<u>177,453</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 186,341</u>	<u>\$ 178,778</u>	<u>\$ 180,644</u>	<u>\$ 1,866</u>

BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
SCHEDULE OF EQUITY INTEREST IN FIXED ASSETS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

FIXED ASSETS	DATE		BALTIMORE	IRVING	RUTLAND	CARLTON	HASTINGS	TOTAL
	PURCHASED							
Mobile Radio Unit	Mar-81							
\$ Share		148	79	366	124	218	935	
% Share		15.79%	8.47%	39.15%	13.25%	23.34%	100.00%	
Generators - 2	Jan-85							
\$ Share		370	72	650	276	495	1,863	
% Share		19.85%	3.89%	34.89%	14.84%	26.53%	100.00%	
Tanker Truck - 1986	Aug-86							
\$ Share		12,383	3,284	24,625	8,803	18,205	67,300	
% Share		18.40%	4.88%	36.59%	13.08%	27.05%	100.00%	
Radio	Dec-88							
\$ Share		102	55	254	86	151	648	
% Share		15.79%	8.47%	39.15%	13.25%	23.34%	100.00%	
Ford F-150 w/Slide-in Unit	Nov-89							
\$ Share		5,294	1,210	10,196	3,676	7,559	27,935	
% Share		18.95%	4.33%	36.50%	13.16%	27.06%	100.00%	
Portable Pump	Jan-90							
\$ Share		594	121	1,146	408	868	3,137	
% Share		18.95%	3.85%	36.52%	13.01%	27.67%	100.00%	
Mobile Radio & Control	Dec-92							
\$ Share		87	47	217	73	129	553	
% Share		15.79%	8.47%	39.15%	13.25%	23.34%	100.00%	

BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
SCHEDULE OF EQUITY INTEREST IN FIXED ASSETS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

FIXED ASSETS	DATE PURCHASED						TOTAL
		BALTIMORE	IRVING	RUTLAND	CARLTON	HASTINGS	
GPM 1992 Pumper & Equip	Jan-93						
\$ Share		33,152	8,101	75,683	25,739	53,956	196,631
% Share		16.86%	4.12%	38.49%	13.09%	27.44%	100.00%
Storage Cupboards	Dec-93						
\$ Share		79	42	196	66	117	500
% Share		15.79%	8.47%	39.15%	13.25%	23.34%	100.00%
GE MDX Mobile Radio	Oct-96						
\$ Share		110	59	272	92	163	696
% Share		15.79%	8.47%	39.15%	13.25%	23.34%	100.00%
1997 IHC 4900 4X2 Fire Truck	Dec-96						
\$ Share		19,747	5,739	49,016	16,577	34,218	125,297
% Share		15.76%	4.58%	39.12%	13.23%	27.31%	100.00%
200 Gallon Poly Tank	Jun-99						
\$ Share		388	145	1,019	320	682	2,554
% Share		15.18%	5.66%	39.91%	12.53%	26.72%	100.00%
4 Pioneer Scuba Tanks	Apr-99						
\$ Share		1,523	568	4,005	1,257	2,681	10,034
% Share		15.18%	5.66%	39.91%	12.53%	26.72%	100.00%
1997 FL70 Freightliner w/equip	Nov-00						
\$ Share		24,684	10,523	71,145	21,267	42,381	170,000
% Share		14.52%	6.19%	41.85%	12.51%	24.93%	100.00%

BIRCH RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
SCHEDULE OF EQUITY INTEREST IN FIXED ASSETS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	<u>DATE PURCHASED</u>	<u>BALTIMORE</u>	<u>IRVING</u>	<u>RUTLAND</u>	<u>CARLTON</u>	<u>HASTINGS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Chevy 3/4 Ton Truck	Jun-02						
\$ Share		4,132	1,650	10,964	3,239	6,453	26,438
% Share		15.63%	6.24%	41.47%	12.25%	24.41%	100.00%
Drop-In Unit from Wolverine	Jul-02						
\$ Share		1,745	737	4,610	1,405	2,738	11,235
% Share		15.53%	6.56%	41.03%	12.51%	24.37%	100.00%
Equipment	Aug-03						
\$ Share		698	304	1,901	543	1,095	4,541
% Share		15.37%	6.69%	41.86%	11.95%	24.13%	100.00%
V Series Foam Sytems w/Tank	Jun-04						
\$ Share		434	189	1,183	338	681	2,825
% Share		15.37%	6.69%	41.86%	11.95%	24.13%	100.00%
1998 Marque Ambulance	Mar-05						
\$ Share		3,028	1,359	8,413	2,252	4,898	19,950
% Share		15.18%	6.81%	42.17%	11.29%	24.55%	100.00%
JL-4GH-SI Power Unit	Aug-08						
\$ Share		1,231	660	3,051	1,033	1,819	7,794
% Share		15.79%	8.47%	39.15%	13.25%	23.34%	100.00%
Total Fixed Assets							
Total \$ Share		\$ 109,929	\$ 34,944	\$ 268,912	\$ 87,574	\$ 179,507	\$ 680,866
Total % Share		16.15%	5.13%	39.50%	12.86%	26.36%	100.00%



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October 28, 2008

To the Fire Department Board
BIRCH Rural Fire Department
Barry County, MI

We have recently completed an audit of the financial statements of the BIRCH Rural Fire Department, Barry County, Michigan for the year ended June 30, 2008. During the course of the audit the following items came to our attention, which require further comment.

Budgets Should Be Reviewed On A Periodic Basis

The general appropriations act passed before the beginning of each fiscal year is the legal authority for BIRCH to spend public moneys. The general appropriations act specifies amounts that may be spent by budget category. BIRCH does not have legal authority to spend amounts in excess of specific appropriations.

P.A. 621 of 1978, section 18(1), as amended, provides that a local unit of government may not incur expenditures in excess of amounts appropriated. When it appears that more money will be spent than the amount originally appropriated, it is necessary to amend the budget. This can be done at any meeting prior to the fiscal year end and does not require a new public hearing. During the year ended June 30, 2008, the Fire Department's actual expenditures exceeded their appropriations in one area.

It is recommended that the Fire Department closely monitor the expenditures in relation to amounts appropriated and amend the budget when necessary. In addition, consideration should be taken at year-end for typical audit adjustments and amend the budget accordingly. The approved budget and all amended budgets should become a permanent part of the board minutes.

Bank Reconciliations Should Be Completed And Reviewed On A Periodic Basis

During the audit it was noted that it was unclear whether bank reconciliations were being performed on a timely basis and being reviewed by an individual other than the Treasurer. It is an important that bank statements be reconciled regularly so that errors or irregularities can be detected in a timely fashion. Also, it is important that an individual, separate from the treasurer, review the bank reconciliations to assure that segregation of duties is being performed.

Our recommendation is that the Treasurer performs a bank reconciliation using the back of the bank statement within twenty days of the end of each month. The form should be completed even if there are no outstanding items. The Treasurer should initial the reconciliation and place the date the reconciliation was performed on the reconciliation. Bank reconciliations should be given to another individual for review no less than quarterly. The individual should initial the statement noting that the reconciliation was reviewed and all items appear proper.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank BIRCH for the cooperation and courtesy extended to us during the audit. If you have any questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.

Walker, Fluke & Sheldon, PLC



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To the Board of Directors
BIRCH Rural Fire Department
Barry County, Michigan

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the BIRCH Rural Fire Department as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Fire Department's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire Department's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire Department's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies and other deficiencies that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. We believe that the following deficiency constitutes a material weakness.

- Check writing and responsibility for bank records are both duties being performed by one individual, the Treasurer. These duties need to be segregated so that two signatures are required for disbursements and withdrawals, and bank reconciliations and bank records are being reviewed by another individual besides the Treasurer.
- The Fire Department does not have the technical expertise to prepare financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, including procedures to record revenue and expenditure accruals, changes in capital assets, and to present required financial statement disclosures. Currently, the Fire Department contracts with Walker, Fluke & Sheldon, PLC to prepare the financial statements and assist with accrual entries.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the board of trustees of BIRCH Rural Fire Department and the State of Michigan Department of Treasury and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Hastings, Michigan
October, 28 2008

Walker, Fluke & Sheldon, PLC